

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM (CELCP) COMPETITIVE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FISCAL YEAR 2009

PROPOSALS DUE: JULY 7, 2008

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (SCDHEC-OCRM) is soliciting written proposals from eligible entities within South Carolina for potential project funding under the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. Selected proposals will be submitted on behalf of the state to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop a prioritized list of projects that are eligible for funding under fiscal year 2009 CELCP funding. Availability of funding is contingent upon Congressional appropriations.

BACKGROUND:

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) was established "for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses." The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on such lands, from willing sellers. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

Eligible parties wishing to submit proposals must send, in a sealed envelop, a signed original and four (4) copies of their proposal along with an electronic version in Microsoft Word. Maps and other supporting documents may be submitted as a .pdf file. Envelopes must be clearly labeled "CELCP Funding Proposal" and addressed as follows:

Marian Page
Director of Finance
SCDHEC-OCRM
1362 McMillan Ave, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29405

PROPOSAL DEADLINE:

All proposals must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. EST, Monday, July 7, 2008. Proposals sent electronically must also submit hard copies by the above date and time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

For additional information or clarification on instructions in this notice, please visit the CELCP website at http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html or contact Marian Page at 843-953-0231 or pagemm@dhec.sc.gov.

ELIGIBILITY:

As defined by CELCP funding guidelines, eligible entities include state/territorial agencies, local governments as defined at 15 CFR 24.3, or entities eligible for assistance under Section 306A(e) of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) (16 U.S.C.1455a(e)), provided that each agency or entity has the authority to acquire and manage land for conservation purposes. SCDHEC-OCRM serves as the state's designated lead agency for CELCP funding requests.

To be eligible, projects must be located within South Carolina's coastal watershed boundary, be held in public ownership, provide conservation in perpetuity, and provide public access or other public benefit.

PROPOSAL FORMAT:

Proposal descriptions should include information on the primary purpose of the project and how it supports the purpose of CELCP, how the project will be completed in a timely manner, the existing and proposed uses of the property, the basis for the funding request, and how the property will be managed for long-term conservation.

Each proposal must include the following required elements: 1) project description and scope of work; 2) project budget and justification; 3) project checklist; and 4) project location and site maps. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Proposals must be submitted in the format outlined in NOAA's project and budget templates.

Detailed proposal requirements and proposal templates can be found at the CELCP website

http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html

Supplemental information is not required but may enhance the review and ranking of the proposal. Although not required at application time, supplemental information will be required if the project is selected and funded. Supplemental information includes: 1) documentation of willingness or intent to sell, 2) appraisal, 3) environmental assessment, 4) site survey, and 4) evidence of title.

PROJECT BUDGETS AND TIMELINES:

Individual proposals must not exceed \$3,000,000 in requested CELCP funds and must include matching non-federal funding at a ratio of 1:1. Non-federal matching funds may be derived from state, local, non-governmental or private sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions. Project proposal timelines should assume a start date between March 1, 2009 and October 1, 2009.

Publication of this notice does not obligate SCDHEC-OCRM or NOAA to make any award to specific projects. Applicants are given notice that funds have not yet been appropriated for this program.

All expenses incurred during proposal preparation or other project costs incurred prior to selection and award of funding should be done so solely at the applicant's own risk. SCDHEC-OCRM, NOAA nor the Department of Commerce will be held responsible for pre-award costs.

SELECTION PROCESS:

SCDHEC-OCRM may select up to three (3) proposals for consideration in the national priority ranking. Proposals will be reviewed and ranked based on the degree to which they: 1) protect important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical or aesthetic values; 2) support their primary purpose and contribute to other values; and 3) advance the priorities of CELCP. For detailed evaluation criteria see the CELCP Opportunity Notice http://www.coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/land/celcp_fundingop.html